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1 OCT - 31 DEC

CHRONOLOGY OF THE VIET-NAM CONFLICT
October 1 - 15, 1972

Sunday, 1 October

General Haig of NSC arrives in Saigon, briefs President Thieu on secret Kissinger talks.

Canadian ICC Commissioner Jackson blames India and Poland for ineffectiveness of ICC. In flurry of statements, Indian and Polish delegations blame GVN for ICC move; GVN rebuts charges in counter-statement.

ARVN elements break thru roadblocks on QL-1 to relieve Mo Duc district town in Quang Ngai.

Monday, 2 October

President Thieu calls for military victory in State of the Nation message to National Assembly as Senate and Lower House convene for regular term.

Saigon Command reports 100 Communist attacks in SVN, biggest surge of enemy activity in two months. Communists destroy bridge on QL-4 south of Can Tho closing highway to Phung Hiep district town, and set up road blocks on QL-4 in An Xuyen province.

USAF claims NVN suffered in September worst aircraft losses of the Indochina war: nine MIG's shot down, seven destroyed on the ground.

U.S. troop strength in South Viet-Nam reported at 35,900 as of September 28.

Vientiane sources report Laotian irregular forces launched campaign to recapture Plain of Jars for RLG.

Tuesday, 3 October

NVA/VC guerrillas interdict QL-1 25 miles northeast of Saigon, cutting off vegetable shipments from Dalat.

VC claims credit for explosion aboard USS Newport News, in Liberation Radio broadcast.

Wednesday, 4 October

President Nixon in news conference says timing of South Viet-Nam settlement not affected by Presidential election.

General Haig leaves Saigon for Washington.

QL-1 between Saigon and Dalat reopened by ARVN.

U.S. official sources confirm F-111 fighters withdrawn from combat following loss of one fighter; now returned to action.

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PRG Foreign Minister Mme Binh completes five-day visit to Sweden for talks with government leaders.

President Thieu submits billion dollar budget to National Assembly, assuming 15 percent increase in U.S. aid.

North Vietnamese negotiator Xuan Thuy says in Paris that U.S. and DRV positions "remain as far apart as ever."

In Vientiane "secret" peace talks between PLF and RLG representatives begin.

Thursday, 5 October

More than 30 B-52s drop almost 1000 tons of bombs near Saigon in intensified campaign to protect SVN capital.

U.S. troop strength in South Viet-Nam drops to 35,200.

Friday, 6 October

Allied commanders reportedly order special alert around Saigon; Communists cut QL-13 seven miles north of Saigon, infiltrate seven hamlets within 20 miles of capital.

Independent opposition Senator Huyen re-elected President of Upper House of RVN National Assembly, despite Administration maneuvering to defeat him. Lower House names pro- Administration leadership.

NVA/VC terrorists attack "Happy Haven" leper colony near DaNang, killing one and injuring 19.

Saturday, 7 October

U.S. Embassy Saigon announces it has protested GVN radio attacks on Democratic Presidential candidate McGovern.

Communist forces attack Phnom Penh, damage bridge to block river access to POL depot.

Sunday, 8 October

Dr. Kissinger, accompanied by General Haig, meets Communist negotiators Le Duc Tho and Xuan Thuy in Paris.

President Thieu attacks VC proposal for tripartite government as "a cunning trick."

B-52's attack supply buildup near Vinh in what is described as deepest raids in North Viet-Nam in six months.

Communists rocket Dalat Military Academy; no casualties reported.

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ARVN reports recapture of Tien Phuoc district town in Quang Tin province, lost to enemy September 10.

Monday, 9 October

Dr. Kissinger meets Communist negotiators for second day in Paris.

General Haig's promotion to Vice Chief of Staff and four stars confirmed by Senate.

Tuesday, 10 October

Dr. Kissinger meets Communist negotiators for third straight day in Paris, confers with French Foreign Minister Schumann.

Danish Prime Minister Joergensen opens Copenhagen meeting of International Commission of Inquiry into U.S. War Crimes in Indochina.

Wednesday, 11 October

French diplomatic mission in Hanoi severely damaged during U.S. bombing raid; French Delegate General Susini severely injured, five persons killed. French government protests. MACV suggests damage caused by North Vietnamese anti-aircraft missile.

Dr. Kissinger extends Paris talks to fourth day.

Race riot aboard carrier USS Kitty Hawk at Yankee Station injures 46 sailors.

Thursday, 12 October

Dr. Kissinger returns to Washington; regular Paris talks show no progress.

President Nixon sends President Pompidou personal regrets for damage to French mission in Hanoi.

ARVN convoy from Vung Tau ambushed on QL-15; sapper attack on QL-15 bridge in Ba Ria repulsed.

Friday, 13 October

DRV negotiator Le Duc Tho leaves Paris for Hanoi.

Communist forces overrun Ben Het border ranger camp in Kontum province after heavy bombardment.

Culvert on QL-1 in Long Khanh province blown, also closing route to Dalat.

Saturday, 14 October

President Thieu recalls Ambassadors to Paris peace talks, Washington and London, for consultations in Saigon.

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Pathet Lao 12-man delegation headed by General Phnon Seprasenth arrives in Vientiane from Hanoi for peace talks with RLG.

ARVN III Corps orders evacuation of Minh Thanh base in Binh Long province surrounded since April.

Sunday, 15 October

Secretary of State Rogers says Viet-Nam peace talks in a "very serious stage."

President Thieu lunches with Senate Chairmen and Lower House Speakers, later meets with ARVN leadership as his "intensive consultations" continue.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hang Phun Hak presents new cabinet to press.

ARVN Rangers link up in drive to clear QL-1 between Mo Duc and Duc Pho in Quang Ngai province.

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CHRONOLOGY OF THE VIET-NAM CONFLICT
October 16 - 31, 1972

Monday, 16 October

Communists harass three main highways around Saigon as B-52's strike near Bien Hoa and Saigon.

French Delegate General Susini flown to France for medical treatment of injuries sustained when French Hanoi mission damaged during U.S. bombing raid.

Communists overrun Phu Hoa refugee camp in Quang Ngai province killing 17 and wounding 40, mostly civilians.

Tuesday, 17 October

Dr. Kissinger meets Communist negotiators in Paris, then leaves for Saigon. Coincidentally General Abrams, newly confirmed U.S. Army Chief of Staff, also flies to Saigon.

U.S. F-111 lost over North Viet-Nam; second loss since F-111s returned to Indochina war.

Wednesday, 18 October

Dr. Kissinger and General Abrams arrive in Saigon.

QL-1 reopened by ARVN northeast of Saigon after five days closure.

Thursday, 19 October

President Thieu tells legislators that President Nixon turned down a Communist cease-fire proposal after Thieu rejected proposed coalition governemnt.

French Delegate General Susini dies in Paris hospital.

Friday, 20 October

Pentagon spokesman acknowledges that U.S. Navy bomb "inadvertently" hit French mission in Hanoi, resulting in death of Delegate General.

China accuses USSR of "collusion" with Lon Nol government in Cambodia.

DRV delegation at Paris renews call for President Thieu to step down to make way for a coalition government.

Cambodian Premier Hang Then Hak escapes assassination attempt.

Ambassador Sullivan in Kissinger party visits Vientiane and Bangkok to brief government leaders on Paris negotiations.

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Saturday, 21 October

Newsweek releases interview by DRV Premier Pham Van Dong with de Borchgrave in Hanoi October 18 hinting at details of cease-fire agreement.

Pentagon denies that USAF bases alerted for imminent POW release from North Viet-Nam.

Sunday, 22 October

Dr. Kissinger visits Phnom Penh to meet GKR President Lon Nol, confers twice with President Thieu in Saigon.

Lao Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma arrives in Paris, indicates to newsmen that peace is imminent.

ARVN reopens and completes repair on QL-1 between Quang Ngai city and Mo Duc and Duc Pho.

Bien Hoa Air Base hit by 57 122 mm rockets; 16 Americans wounded or injured taking evasive action.

Monday, 23 October

Dr. Kissinger leaves Saigon for Washington after conferring with President Thieu six times during five-day stay in Saigon. General Abrams also heads for Washington; Embassy announces "progress" toward peace settlement.

Communist delegations to Paris peace talks indicate peace is at hand with "agreement in principle."

President Thieu calls in all province chiefs for Saigon meeting on cease-fire preparations.

Tuesday, 24 October

President Thieu in two-hour TV address to nation indicates cease-fire can come only when great powers, including China and Russia, guarantee it.

DRV delegation in Paris charges Thieu "opposes peace" and is only a "speaking trumpet" for the U.S.

MACV acknowledges B-52's did not bomb North Viet-Nam October 23, ending 18-day streak; tactical air strikes also at lowest level in three weeks, ostensibly because of heavy thunderstorms and monsoon rains.

Dr. Kissinger reports to President Nixon and Secretary Rogers. White House spokesman confirms "some progress" but discourages expectations of peace within two weeks.

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USAF Secretary Seamans dismisses further charges against retired Major General Lavelle, former 7th AF Commander.

Landing accident aboard USS Midway kills 4 sailors, injures 22, one reported missing.

Wednesday, 25 October

Press reports U.S. planes have not bombed North Viet-Nam north of 20th parallel, 65 miles south of Hanoi.

PRG Foreign Minister Mme Binh in Paris says, "We still have no agreement with the Americans over the basic issues."

GVN reminds public of stiff penalties for cooperating with the Communists or displaying Communist flags.

Surge in enemy-initiated activity in MRs 3 and 4 marked by occupation of hamlets, attacks on Delta outposts.

Thursday, 26 October

Hanoi Radio broadcasts summary of nine-point peace agreement and alleges Americans proposed to sign on October 31 for November 1 cease-fire, now reneging on agreement.

Dr. Kissinger in Washington press conference reveals further details, says signature must await further negotiating session of 3 or 4 days, but "peace is at hand."

Saigon radio says separate agreement between U.S. and DRV "does not concern us in any way."

At Paris talks Ambassador Porter protests DRV revelation of peace agreement.

Communist forces continue highpoint, with numerous attacks by fire on air bases and cities, including Da Nang, Pleiku and Kontum.

As of 26 October 33,700 U.S. military remain in-country.

Friday, 27 October

President Thieu tells demonstrating legislators that peace must await full agreement on terms of a cease-fire.

Foreign Ministry statement says GVN ready to accept cease-fire which provides for self-determination in South Viet-Nam, but charges DRV revelations intended to "sow suspicion" between U.S. and GVN.

Communists maintain high point, seizing hamlets on QL-1 northwest of Saigon.

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Canadian Defense spokesman tells press that Canada considering plans to send as many as 5,000 men in peacekeeping force for South Viet-Nam.

UN Secretary General Waldheim offers to supervise Viet-Nam cease-fire.

Pentagon spokesman confirms U.S. expediting supply and materiel shipments to South Viet-Nam to beat cease-fire deadline.

Lao Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma meets President Nixon in Washington.

Sunday, October 29

Vice President Agnew says U.S. will not sign agreement with DRV October 31, but terms of agreement will not come unstuck.

Exiled Cambodian Prince Sihanouk in Peking after visit to Hanoi vows to reject any peace agreement he does not sign.

Communist troops continue high level of military activity in attacks on villages near Saigon, military outposts in the Delta.

Monday, 30 October

White House spokesman confirms U.S. will not sign cease-fire agreement October 31.

Peking government statement urges U.S. to sign. VC and Hanoi radios maintain propaganda pressure on U.S. to sign or bear the consequences.

ARVN reconnaissance companies helilifted into Dak To and Tam Canh in Kontum province and occupy sites overrun by Communists in early May.

U.S. sources confirm Seventh Fleet has suspended shore bombardment and air strikes north of 20th parallel.

Communist forces capture Keng Kak in southern Laos.

Communists rocket Phnom Penh, hit ammo depot, while sappers destroy radio towers on outskirts of capital.

GVN Foreign Minister Lam tells press tripartite council envisaged by draft agreement is not a coalition government, but text must be clarified.

USIS Viet-Nam commentator Douglas Pike in Taipei speculates Hanoi concessions could have been result of deteriorating health among DRV leadership.

Dak Saeng Border Ranger camp evacuated under enemy pressure in Kontum, MR-2.

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Tuesday, 31 October

White House pledges to resist pressure that might "stampede" U.S. into signing cease-fire.

Vietnamese Airborne troops recapture FSB Barbara in Quang Tri, MR1.

ARVN withdraws under Communist pressure from two district towns in MR1: Ba To in Quang Ngai province and Que Son in Quang Nam province.

U.S. B-52 bombers stage heaviest raids in three months over North Viet-Nam south of 20th parallel.

Enemy attacks on hamlets around Saigon continue heavy. As of this date, 15 hamlets are listed as contested--five in Binh Duong, five in Hau Nghia, four in Phuoc Tuy and one in Long Khanh.

President Thieu opens exhibit of captured Communist weapons in celebration of Revolution Day.

An Quang Buddhists issue 9-point statement urging prompt cease-fire agreement respecting right of self-determination in spirit of national reconciliation.

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CHRONOLOGY OF THE VIET-NAM CONFLICT
November 1 - 15, 1972

Wednesday, November 1

In a radio broadcast on National Day, President Thieu states that he is ready to meet with representatives of North Viet-Nam to work out a cease-fire and with the National Liberation Front on a political solution.

Thai leader Thanom Kittikachorn states that a cease-fire must be carried out in Laos and Cambodia as well as Viet-Nam.

Thursday, November 2

In a TV/Radio address President Nixon states that, "there are still some issues to be resolved.... We want... a peace that will last."

Kontum city is hit by 14 122mm rockets, killing two, wounding eight Vietnamese civilians.

ARVN forces withdraw under enemy pressure from the Duc Co Ranger Camp in western Pleiku province. Enemy activity nationwide generally declines as October 31 deadline set by the Communists for the signing of the cease-fire agreement passes.

In Paris Ambassador Porter says that "peace is near". The Communists again accuse the U. S. of "bad faith" for failing to sign the agreement on October 31.

President Thieu's special envoy Nguyen Phu Duc meets with Indonesian President Suharto to explain the GVN position regarding a cease-fire agreement.

The U. S. begins delivery of 32 C-130 transport planes to South Viet-Nam as part of an accellerated build-up of South Vietnamese military strength prior to a cease-fire.

The Cambodian Government establishes a "National Committee of Action for Peace and Concord," headed by President Lon Nol and including some opposition leaders in preparation for a cease-fire.

Friday, November 3

The U. S. announces that Iran, South Korea and the Republic of China had agreed to lend U. S.-supplied F-5 fighter planes to South Viet-Nam as part of U. S. efforts to build up the South Vietnamese Air Force.

Que Son district town in Quang Nam province MR1 is recaptured by ARVN forces after being in enemy hands for several days.

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Saturday, November 4

North Viet-Nam panhandle is subjected to heavy B-52 raids in an effort to disrupt the increased movement of troops and equipment south.

Sunday, November 5

Secretary of Defense Laird tells the press that the U. S. is trying "to enhance negotiations through the acceleration of deliveries" of planes and weapons to South Viet-Nam.

Catholic leaders organize large rally in downtown Saigon to back President Thieu's position on the terms of a cease-fire.

ARVN forces reoccupy Fire Support Base Ross, in the Que Son Valley of Quang Nam province, which had been abandoned by friendly forces on August 19 and contested intermittently since that date.

Monday, November 6

North Vietnamese newspaper Nhan Dan charges that the accelerated delivery of war materials from the U. S. to South Viet-Nam, together with the intensification of B52 raids in Indochina, "threaten the breaking" of the draft peace agreement.

Tuesday, November 7

A third F-111 is lost over North Viet-Nam.

Wednesday, November 8

The South Vietnamese Government welcomes the re-election of President Nixon. Foreign Minister Lam declares, "we are very pleased to share the wise choice of the American people."

The North Vietnamese newspaper Nhan Dan accuses the South Vietnamese Government of having arrested tens of thousands and executed hundreds of people in a "terror campaign" over the previous several weeks.

Cambodian Government forces open Route 5, the "rice road" from Phnom Penh to Battambang, to military traffic for the first time since the road was cut in September.

Thursday, November 9

In Paris Plenary Session, Ambassador Porter states his belief that the talks are entering their final stages while the North Vietnamese delegate says that there will be no quick peace in Viet-Nam due to U. S. refusal to sign the peace agreement.

The U. S. troop level in South Viet-Nam drops to 31, 100.

Friday, November 10

Dr. Kissinger's deputy, General Haig, arrives in Saigon and meets with President Thieu, who reportedly cautions the U. S. against making any secret agreement with Hanoi.

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Saturday, November 11

ARVN forces recapture Hoai An district town in Binh Dinh province, the last district capital in Binh Dinh remaining under enemy control.

Sunday, November 12

General Haig departs Saigon after conferring twice with President Thieu, with stops in Phnom Penh, Bangkok and Seoul before returning to Washington. General Haig's talks with President Thieu are described by the American Embassy as "cordial and constructive."

For the first time in several weeks no hamlets remain contested by enemy forces in MR3, as enemy activity remains at a low level.

Bien Hoa Air Base is rocketed, with the loss of an RF-5 and damage to four other aircraft. Enemy sappers also blow up a small ammunition dump in Bien Hoa province close to Saigon.

Monday, November 13

A White House source is reported by the press as stating that more than one additional negotiating session will be needed in Paris.

GVN Foreign Minister Lam states that the war is irreversibly drawing to a close, in speech to Saigon Lions Club.

Tuesday, November 14

North Vietnamese negotiator Le Duc Tho stops in Peking on his way from Hanoi to Paris for further discussions with Dr. Kissinger.

ARVN forces retake Fire Support Base Anne in Quang Tri province.

Explosions at the Thu Duc Training Center outside of Saigon wound fifteen officer candidates; cause suspected to be enemy sappers or sabotage.

Wednesday, November 15

State Department spokesman announces that Canada, Poland, Indonesia, and Hungary have agreed in principle to serve as members of an International Control and Supervision Commission to oversee a cease-fire in South Viet-Nam.

Communist troops retake the southern Laos provincial capital of Saravane, which had been captured by Lao Government forces on October 23.

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CHRONOLOGY OF THE VIET-NAM CONFLICT
November 16 - 30, 1972

Thursday, 16 November

Some 5,500 military cadets and civil service students are dispatched throughout South Viet-Nam (including Saigon) in a special November 15 - January 10 campaign to win popular support for the GVN in anticipation of a post-cease-fire political struggle throughout South Viet-Nam.

After Paris Plenary Session North Vietnamese Delegation leader Xuan Thuy tells the press that North Viet-Nam will "accept no arguments in favor of possible changes" in the draft cease-fire agreement. Ambassador Porter says that a peaceful settlement to the Viet-Nam War is "much nearer than we imagined only a few weeks ago."

Friday, 17 November

North Vietnamese negotiator Le Duc Tho returns to Paris following stopovers in Peking and Moscow.

Monday, 20 November

Dr. Kissinger and Le Duc Tho begin a new round of secret negotiations in Paris.

The South Vietnamese Senate approves a resolution backing President Thieu's stand on the Viet-Nam cease-fire negotiations.

Tuesday, 21 November

RLG troops with tactical air support recapture the provincial capital of Saravane in southern Laos.

The Da Nang Air Base area is hit by six 122 mm rockets killing one Vietnamese and wounding 12 others.

A fourth F-111 is lost over Laos on a bombing mission against North Viet-Nam.

Wednesday, 22 November

Dr. Kissinger consults with Indonesian President Suharto in Brussels and returns to Paris to meet with Le Duc Tho.

Lao Prime Minister Souvana Phouma tells press that there is no hope for peace in Laos before the settlement of the Viet-Nam War and that U.S. bombing would continue in Laos after a Viet-Nam cease-fire becomes effective.

Lt. General Nguyen Van Thanh, former commander of Cao Dai military forces, is killed at his home in the Holy See at Tay Ninh.

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The first B-52 of the Viet-Nam War is brought down by a SAM missile. Hit near Vinh, North Viet-Nam, the aircraft limps back to Thailand, where the 6-men crew bailed out and is safely recovered.

Thursday, 23 November

Dr. Kissinger meets with North Vietnamese and also consults with Nguyen Phu Duc, President Thieu's advisor on Foreign Affairs. No Plenary Session due to Thanksgiving recess.

Saturday, 25 November

Dr. Kissinger and Le Duc Tho after meeting for the sixth straight day announce agreement to interrupt their talks for nine days, until December 4. Dr. Kissinger returns to the U.S. while Le Duc Tho remains in Paris.

Sunday, 26 November

Hoang Duc Nha, President Thieu's Press Secretary and close advisor, flies to Paris to "observe the developments of the Paris Peace Talks."

Monday, 27 November

Nguyen Co Thach, North Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister, leaves Paris for Hanoi. North Vietnamese newspaper Nhan Dan states that hopes for peace have begun to dim following an about-face by the United States and "insolent demands" by President Thieu.

Tuesday, 28 November

South Vietnamese Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam says that the secret peace talks are facing difficulties.

Wednesday, 29 November

President Nixon meets with President Thieu's advisor Nguyen Phu Duc in Washington.

Foreign Minister Lam in Saigon states that there are many points to be settled between the Communist and non-Communist sides before a peace agreement can be concluded.

Thai Government leader Pote Sarasin tells the press that U.S. servicemen and aircraft are welcome to remain in Thailand for an indefinite period following a cease-fire in Viet-Nam. He also states that Thai volunteer forces will remain in Laos until North Viet-Nam removes its troops from Laos.

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Thursday, 30 November

President Thieu's special envoy, Nguyen Phu Duc, meets for the second time with President Nixon.

The U.S. troop level in the Republic of Viet-Nam falls to 25,500 men, but U.S. troop ceiling remains at 27,000. Defense Department spokesman states that further troop withdrawals will continue on a limited basis but without any formal announcement pending the outcome of the negotiations in Paris.

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
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OCTOBER

1--The Saigon command reported 100 Communist attacks in South Vietnam. It was the biggest surge of enemy activity in two months.

2--The United States troop strength in South Vietnam was reported at 35,900 as of September 28.

5--United States troop strength in South Vietnam dropped to 35,200 on 5 October.

8--B-52s attacked a supply buildup near Vinh in what was described as the deepest raids in North Vietnam in six months.

12--Gen Fred C. Weyand, USA, assumed command of MACV on 12 Oct 72.

12--MG M. G. Roseborough, USA, assumed command of the MACV Support Command on 12 Oct 72.

14--The ARVN III Corps ordered the evacuation of Minh Thanh base in Binh Long province which had been surrounded since April.

19--President Thieu told legislators that President Nixon turned down a Communist cease-fire proposal after President Thieu rejected a proposed coalition government.

24--MACV announced that B-52s did not bomb North Vietnam on 23 October for the first time in 18 days; tactical air strikes were also at their lowest level in three weeks.

24--Bien Hoa Air Base was hit by 57 122mm rockets; 16 Americans were wounded while taking evasive action.

26--The United States troop strength in South Vietnam was reported at 33,700 as of 26 Oct.

27--Defense Secretary Melvin Laird stated the United States halted the bombing above the 20th parallel in North Vietnam.

30--The Defense Department announced the suspension of shore bombardment and air strikes north of the 20th parallel by the Seventh Fleet.

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31--Hanoi's deadline for the United States to sign the draft peace treaty passed without signing.

31--United States B-52 bombers staged the heaviest raids in three months over North Vietnam south of the 20th parallel.

31--Vietnamese Airborne troops recaptured FSB Barbara in Quang Tri, MR1.

31--The United States troop strength in South Vietnam was reported at 32,208 as of 31 Oct 72.

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NOVEMBER

2--The United States began delivery of 32 C-130 transport planes to South Vietnam as part of an accellerated build-up of South Vietnam's military strength prior to a cease-fire.

3--The United States announced that Iran, South Korea and the Republic of China had agreed to lend the United States - supplied F-5 fighter planes to South Vietnam as part of the United States efforts to build up the ~~South Vietnamese Air Force~~ VNAF.

4--The North Vietnam panhandle was subjected to heavy B-52 raids in an effort to disrupt the increased movement of troops and equipment south.

5--ARVN forces reoccupied Fire Support Base Ross, in the Que Son Valley of Quang Nam province.

9--The United States troop strength in South Vietnam dropped to 31,100 on 9 Nov 72.

14--ARVN forces recaptured Fire Support Base Anne in Quang Tri province.

15--The State Department announced that Canada, Poland, Indonesia, and Hungary agreed in principle to serve as members of an International Control and Supervision Commission to oversee a cease-fire in South Vietnam.

22--The first B-52 combat loss of the Vietnam war occurred when one of the giant bombers was hit by a SAM missile near Vinh NVN. The aircraft limped back to Thailand where the crew bailed out and were rescued.

30--The United States troop level in the Republic of Vietnam fell to 25,500 men, but the United States troop ceiling remained at 27,000.

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DECEMBER

6--Tan Son Nhut airfield outside of Saigon was hit by 43 122mm Rockets, killing 9 (1 US), wounding 54 (2 US) and destroyed one United States helicopter and a quantity of POL.

13--MG John E. Murray, USA, assumed the duties of Director of Logistics on 13 Dec 72.

14--New Zealand withdrew it's forces from South Vietnam on 14 Dec 72.

14--United States troop strength in the Republic of Vietnam fell to 24,900.

18--The Australian government withdrew it's forces from South Vietnam on 18 Dec 72.

18--President Nixon ordered the bombing resumed of military targets in North Vietnam north of the 20th parallel.

19--MACV announced the first United States aircraft losses, two B-52s and one F-111, of the new bombing compaign. Need to research this entry.

21--The National Liberation Front announced that it's forces would observe a 24 hour truce at Christmas and New Year's.

23--The Republic of South Vietnam announced a 24 hour Christmas truce commencing on December 24 at 1800 hours.

26--The United States resumed heavy bombing of North Vietnamese military targets after a 36 hour Christmas standdown.

27--MACV announced that during the period December 18-25, the United States flew 147 B-52 missions and more than 1,000 tactical fighter strikes against 68 specific military targets in North Vietnam north of the 20th parallel. Military targets struck included railyards, shipyards, communication facilities, power plants, MIG bases, and SAM and AAA sites. Twelve B-52 bombers were shot down during the period, primarily by SAMs, over 600 of which were launched against United States aircraft.

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28--The United States troop ~~level~~ strength in South Vietnam fell to 24,100.on 28 Dec 72.

30--President Nixon ordered a halt to the bombing above the 20th parallel.

30--The Republic of South Vietnam announced a 24 hour New Year's truce commencing on December 31 at 1800 hours.

31--Some 15 B-52s and 13 other United States aircraft were reported shot down during the intensified bombing campaign of North Vietnam north of the 20th parallel.

31--The United States troop strength in South Vietnam fell to 24069 on 31 Dec 72.

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CHRONOLOGY OF THE VIET-NAM CONFLICT
December 1 - 15, 1972

Friday, December 1

President Thieu's special envoy, Nguyen Phu Duc, meets for the fourth time with Dr. Kissinger in Washington.

Monday, December 4

Dr. Kissinger and Le Duc Tho open a new round of talks in Paris.

The head of the South Vietnamese Delegation to the Paris Peace Talks, Ambassador Lam, tells the press that the principle of a pullout of North Vietnamese troops must be "inscribed in one way or another" in any peace agreement.

Senator Percy in Saigon meets with South Vietnamese Foreign Minister Lam, and tells the press US aid could be placed in jeopardy if GVN fails to sign a ceasefire agreement agreed between Hanoi and Washington.

Tuesday, December 5

North Vietnamese newspaper Nhan Dan accuses the South Vietnamese Government of carrying out a "white terror campaign" against "patriots" by "imprisoning without trial tens of thousands of people" and asserts that under the ceasefire agreement the return of all captured and detained people on both sides must be carried out concurrently with the withdrawal of US troops.

Wednesday, December 6

Tan Son Nhut airfield outside of Saigon is hit by 43 122 mm rockets, killing 9 (1 US), wounding 54 (2 US) and destroying one US helicopter and a quantity of POL.

Royal Lao Government forces recapture the provincial capital of Paksong, located on the Bolovens Plateau in southern Laos, which had been in enemy hands since December, 1971.

Thursday, December 7

At the 169th session of the Paris Peace Talks, the deputy head of the North Vietnamese Delegation claimed that South Vietnamese demands for the withdrawal of North Vietnamese troops from the Republic of Vietnam had caused a deadlock in the negotiations.

Friday, December 8

Dr. Kissinger meets with French President Pompidou as the Kissinger-Tho talks continue in Paris.

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The State Department confirms news reports that up to 100 Foreign Service Officers will be sent to South Viet-Nam upon the signing of a ceasefire agreement in order to report on developments following the implementation of the ceasefire throughout the country.

35,000 students and teachers participate in an anti-Communist rally in Da Nang. Large scale Government sponsored demonstrations are also heldin various parts of the Delta during the week of December 3.

Saturday, December 9

General Haig flies to Washington from Paris to brief President Nixon on the progress of the Kissinger-Tho talks.

Sunday, December 10

The deputy Prime Minister of North Vietnam, Le Thanh Nghi, arrives in Paris from Moscow to attend the 20th Congress of the French Communist Party.

Monday, December 11

Japanese Foreign Minister Ohira tells the 7th Ministerial Conference for the Economic Development of Southeast Asia, meeting in Saigon, that Japan will extend both bilateral and multilateral aid for reconstruction in Indochina once peace is restored.

The Australian and New Zealand Governments announce publicly their intention to withdraw their military forces from the Republic of Viet-Nam prior to Christmas.

Tuesday, December 12

In an address before the National Assembly, President Thieu reiterates the GVN position on the draft ceasefire agreement, outlines GVN thinking on a suitable political settlement and proposes an indefinite truce beginning prior to Christmas during which the various sides would exchange prisoners of war and engage in negotiations to end the war.

Communists react negatively to President Thieu's speech, calling it "the same old refrain."

Wednesday, December 13

Dr. Kissinger returns to Washington after having held nine meetings with Le Duc Tho in the latest round of talks. However, technical experts on both sides continue to meet.

Thursday, December 14

The White House press secretary states that the US supports only the ceasefire proposal being negotiated by Dr. Kissinger,

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Authority NND 945530
By NARA Date 9/24/97

Le Duc Tho and their staffs to correct press speculation US supported President Thieu's truce proposal in Paris talks.

Enemy sappers set off a series of explosions at the Nhon Trach Central ARVN Ammunition Depot, 8 miles southeast of Saigon, which destroys more than 1500 tons of ammunition and napalm and shakes Saigon for eleven hours.

US troop strength level in the Republic of Viet-Nam falls to 24,900.

Friday, December 15

Le Duc Tho leaves Paris for Hanoi. He tells the press that he will remain in contact with Dr. Kissinger through messages.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE VIET-NAM CONFLICT
December 16 - 31, 1972

Saturday, December 16

Dr. Kissinger explains at Washington press conference reasons for interruption in Paris Secret talks. He charges Hanoi raised numerous technical issues in an apparent effort to stall the negotiations, and states that the US remains "prepared to continue in the spirit of the negotiations that were started in October."

Monday, December 18

US bombing of military targets in North Vietnam north of the 20th Parallel resumes on the orders of President Nixon.

Tuesday, December 19

North Vietnamese negotiator Xuan Thuy tells the press in Paris that the US rather than North Vietnam had blocked a cease-fire agreement by demanding 126 changes in the cease-fire accord drafted in October.

General Haig arrives in Saigon and meets with President Thieu to discuss the present status of the cease-fire negotiations. He also visits Phnom Penh to brief President Lon Nol.

MACV announces the first US airplane losses of the new bombing campaign; two B-52's and one F-111.

US Senate Democratic Majority leader, Mike Mansfield sharply criticizes the renewal of US bombing north of the 20th Parallel.

Soviet News Agency TASS issues statement condemning the intensified bombing of North Vietnam.

Wednesday, December 20

Indonesian Foreign Minister Malik tells the press that he deplores the intensified US bombing of North Vietnam, but he emphasizes that the blame must be shared by both sides.

General Haig meets again with President Thieu, then flies to Vientiane and Bangkok for discussions with Lao and Thai Government leaders before returning to Washington.

A Peoples Republic of China Foreign Ministry statement alleges that the intensive US bombing raids against North Vietnam pose a "new obstacle" to ending the Vietnam War and are "a most serious step" serving to prolong and intensify the war.

The Polish Government officially protests the sinking of the merchant ship Josef Conrad in Haiphong Harbor.

The North Vietnamese adjourn the December 20 meeting of technical level experts in Paris without specifying a date for the resumption of meetings.

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Authority NND 943530
By NARA Date 7/29/97

Thursday, December 21

At the 171st session of the Paris Peace Talks, the DRV and PRG delegations deliver their opening statements and then walk out in protest against US resumption of bombing of North Vietnam north of the 20th Parallel.

The NLF announces that its forces will observe 24-hour truces at Christmas and New Year's.

Soviet Communist Party chief Brezhnev describes US intensified bombing of North Vietnam as "barbarian acts" in a speech marking the 50th anniversary of the founding of the USSR.

The New China News Agency protests an alleged attack on a PRC merchant ship in Haiphong Harbor on December 20.

Radio Hanoi reports that bombing raids in the Hanoi area have damaged the "Hanoi Hilton" PW camp. The Pentagon denies that US has knowingly bombed any PW camp, but notes that if Hanoi's charges are true, North Vietnam is in violation of the Geneva Convention by placing PW in areas exposed to the dangers of war. Other reports from Hanoi state that Gia Lam Airport and the central railroad station in Hanoi are damaged.

Friday, December 22

The Egyptain Government officially protests the damaging of its Embassy in Hanoi, blaming US bombing.

The Indian Government announces that its Chancery and staff quarters in Hanoi were damaged by US bombing raids on December 21 and later lodges an official protest with the US.

Saturday, December 23

Swedish Prime Minister Palme compares the intensified US bombing of North Vietnam with Nazi and other 20th century atrocities. The US formally protests Palme's statement and announces that the US Charge' will remain in the US for the indefinite future.

The Bulgarian Government officially protests to the US the damaging of its Embassy in Hanoi by US bombs on December 21.

GVN Foreign Minister Lam speaking to the press, expresses regret for the suffering of the North Vietnamese people due to the intensified US bombing but observes that the "pernicious refusal of the North Vietnamese leaders to accept the just demands of the US naturally led the US to respond severely."

The GVN announces a 24-hour Christmas truce commencing on December 24 at 1800 hours.

"On the occasion of Christmas", GVN Foreign Ministry circulates a White Paper on "Communist Policy of Terror" and a "Highway of Horror" pamphlet picturing Communist atrocities.

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By NARA Date 8/24/97

Sunday, December 24

Appearing on an American television program, Xuan Thuy in Paris states that the North Vietnamese Government would be willing to resume negotiations if the US would "return to the situation of December 18" (i.e. cease bombing north of the 20th Parallel).

Christmas eve in Saigon sees record turnout of churchgoers and revelers until after midnight.

Monday, December 25

The US observes a 24-hour Christmas standdown in bombing activities over South Vietnam, coinciding with the GVN truce period.

Some 64 attacks by fire and 36 other apparent minor violations are reported by the GVN during the PRG 24-hour Christmas cease-fire period which commenced on December 24 at 1300 hours.

Tuesday, December 26

US resumes heavy bombing of North Vietnamese military targets after a 36-hour Christmas standdown.

The North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry issues a statement claiming that B-52 raids have destroyed the 1000-bed Bach Mai Hospital and two large schools in Hanoi and damaged the Cuban, Egyptian, Indian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, East German, Albanian and Cambodian (GRUNK) Embassies.

Wednesday, December 27

MACV announces that during the period December 18 - 25, the US flew 147 B-52 missions and more than 1,000 tactical fighter strikes against 68 specific military targets in North Vietnam north of the 20th Parallel. Military targets struck included railyards, shipyards, communication facilities, power plants, MIG bases, and SAM and AAA sites. Twelve B-52 bombers were shot down during the period, primarily by SAM's, over 600 of which were launched against US airplanes.

Having decided not to request an extension, President Thieu lets his special powers lapse after issuing 60 decree laws since June, 38 of which were signed the last two weeks.

Australian Defense Minister Bernard announces in Canberra that Australia has decided not to provide any further military aid to South Vietnam. Press speculates $10 million dollars had been committed through 1975.

Thursday, December 28

No Paris Peace Talks plenary session is held.

The Finnish Government recognizes North Vietnam.

US troop level strength in South Vietnam falls to 24,100.

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Authority NND 949530
By NARA Date 8/24/97

Friday, December 29

Yugoslav President Tito attacks intensified US bombing of North Vietnam and calls on the non-aligned nations to make a greater effort in protesting the Vietnam policy of the US.

Saturday, December 30

The White House announces that technical level talks in Paris will resume on January 2 and that Dr. Kissinger will meet again with Le Duc Tho in Paris on January 8. The US also announces that US bombing of North Vietnam north of the 20th Parallel will be halted as long as "serious negotiations" are in progress.

Pakistani President Bhutto in a public statement deplores the resumption of US bombing over North Vietnam.

The GVN announces a 24-hour New Year's truce commencing on December 31 at 1800 hours.

In Laos, enemy forces capture Sala Phou Khoun, an important road junction, cutting Route 13 halfway between Vientiane and Luang Prabang.

Sunday, December 31

At a New Year's Eve diplomatic reception, President Thieu expresses his appreciation for allied support in 1972 and his hopes for a just and lasting peace, not a "provisional cease-fire which the Communist aggressors would use to create more difficulties and resume aggression under new conditions favorable to them."

Some 15 B-52's and 13 other US aircraft are reported shot down during the intensified bombing campaign of North Vietnam north of the 20th Parallel.

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180 1972 1973

18 October	Dr. Kissinger briefed Ambassador Bunker and General Weyand on the breakthrough in the Paris talks.
26	Dr. Kissinger's "peace is at hand" news conference.
30	Ambassador Bunker instructed to start planning for FPJMCS and TPJMC.
4 November	Memorandum, General Weyand to Ambassador Bunker, Subj: Ceasefire Planning.(tasks, organization, and procddures of the Central Commission)
7	Memorandum, General Weyand to Ambassador Bunker, Subj: Ceasefire Planning.(mechanism of the ceasefire, liaison with PRG/DRV, areas of control, JMC apolitical)
10	First General Haig Visit.
11	Memorandum, General Weyand to Ambassador Bunker, Subj: Ceasefire Planning.(draft commanders' agreement)
15	State Department informed USEMB of the outline for negotiating the protocols for FPJMC and TPJMC.
20	~~Draft~~ First draft JTD prepared ~~General~~ MACDL forms Special Study Group to develop support concept
30	Memorandum, General Wickham to the Delegation Executive, Subj: Initial Tasks for USDEL Staff.
2 December	
19	Memorandum, Colonel Balzer to General Wickham, Subj: Analysis of DRV Draft Protocol for FPJMC and TPJMC.
	~~Haigxvisitx~~ Second General Haig Visit.
10	General Woodward mission arrives in Paris.
	General Murray forms JMC/ICCS Support Office to coordinate support.
26 ~~Memox~~	Memorandum of Agreement signed by General Murray and LTG Khuyen, regarding concept of support.

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27 Agreement and Protocols signed in Paris.
~~FPSMC~~ USDEL FPSMC activated.

28 First of the PRG/DRV delegates arrive at Tan Son Nhut. PRG sit-in begins.

29 First Deputy Chiefs of Delegation Meeting

(Issues discussed: identification and credentials; ceasefire violations; incomplete PW list; PRG pickup; areas of control; freedom of movement)

PRG sit-in ends.

30 Deputy Chiefs of Delegation Meeting

(Issues discussed: POW Subcommission; SV civilian POW Subcommission)

1 February Deputy Chiefs of Delegation Meeting

(Issues discussed: POW Subcommission; US POW release)

2 Deputy Chiefs of Delegation Meeting
(Issues discussed: ~~Troop~~ US/FWMAF Withdrawal; authority of Deputy Chiefs; Identification)

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~~2 February~~ First Chiefs of Delegation Meeting
(Issues discussed: Release of US PW's; Stability of Ceasefire; General Withdrawal Plan for US/FWMAF; Liaison ~~Meeting on~~ of Mine-clearing Operations; Movement of DRV/PRG from Hanoi to Saigon.)

3 First Subcommission on PW's Meeting.

4 Chiefs of Delegation Meeting
(Issues discussed: Liaison of Mine-clearing Operations; Deployment of DRV/PRG to Regions; Dismantlement of US/FWMAF Bases; Subcommission on Military Affairs.)

5 Chiefs of Delegations Meeting
(Issues discussed: Enforcement of Ceasefire; Two-Party JMC; Subcommission on Operational Procedures; Deployment of PRG to Regions.)

6 First Subcommission on Military Affairs Meeting
(to discuss all military issues except ceasefire, troop withdrawal, and on dismantlement.)
First Subcommission on Operational Procedures Meeting
(to discuss issues raised by Vietnamese parties related to Article 16 and 17 of Ceasefire Protocol.)
First Ad Hoc Committee on PRG Movement Meeting.
(to discuss deployment of PRG.)

May (4), COMUSMACV, to CDR, USARV/MACV SUPCOM. Subject: Support of ICCS/JMC. US REL begin to play more active role in support.

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7 Chiefs of Delegation Meeting
(Issues discussed: Points of entry; Withdrawal of US/FWMAF and Dismantlement of Bases; Complaint about Regional Sites.)

8 Chiefs of Delegation Meeting
(Issues discussed: Resolution on Enforcement of Ceasefire; Areas of Control; Troop Withdrawal: Removal of Armaments and War Materiel.)
First Meeting of PRG/RVN Special Subcommission to discuss foundation of Two-Party JMC.

9 Ban Me Thout Incident (Mob threatened DRV delegation upon arrival.)

10 Chiefs of Delegation Meeting
(Issues discussed: Ban Me Thout Incident; Privileges and Immunities; Accomodations and Support of PRG/DRV; POW release.)

11 LTG Duz relieved as Chief, RVN Delegation. LTG Dong named as new Chief.

12 (X+15) Chiefs of Delegation Meeting.
(Issues discussed: POW release.)
US-POW release: 116 at Gia Lam and 27 at Loc Ninh.
First RVN/PRG POW release.
Troop Withdrawal status:

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DRV deployed to 7 regions and 4 JMT's.

PRG deployed to 5 regions.

RVN deployed to regions and JMT's.

US deployed to regions and JMT's.

14 Chiefs of Delegation Meeting

(Issues discussed: Ban Me Thout Incident; Joint Appeal on Enforcement of Ceasefire; Points of Entry; Diplomatic Privileges/Immunities; Accomodations.)

Ambassador Sullivan's Visit

15 Deputy Chiefs of Delegation Meeting

(Issues discussed: POW release; Deployment of PRG/DRV to Field; Joint Appeal.)

Hue Incident (Not threatened 2 DRV delegates)

16 Chiefs of Delegation Meeting

(Issues discussed: Joint Appeal; CH-47 Incident; Hue Incident; Ceasefire.)

CH-47 Incident near Loc Ninh

17 Chiefs of Delegation Meeting

(Issues discussed: Joint Appeal; CH-47 Incident; Accomodations and Support of PRG/DRV; Points of Entry.)

Joint Appeal on Enforcement of Ceasefire issued.

18 US POW release; 20 at Gia Lam

19 Chiefs of Delegation Meeting

(Issues discussed: Sa Huynh Violation; CH-47 incident; Deployment of PRG/DRV.)

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21 Du Co Incident (RVN bombing of point of entry site)

Chiefs of Delegation Meeting
(Issues discussed: Du Co Incident; FPJMC Investigations; Points of Entry.)

23 Chiefs of Delegation Meeting
(Issues discussed: Civilian Detainees; PW's; FPJMC Investigations.)

24 Tri Tan Incident (morter/RR fire on ICCS site)

25 Hue Incident (not attached ~~not attached~~ DRV compound)

26 Chiefs of Delegation Meeting
(Issues discussed: Hue Incident; SA-2 Missiles at Khe Sanh; POW Release; Deployment of PRG/DRV.)

27 (X+30) Provisional Two-Party Subcommission formed to discuss captured and detained Vietnamese citizens.

Troop Withdrawal Status:

DRV deployed to regions and JMT's.
PRG deployed to regions and JMT's.
RVN deployed to regions and JMT's.
US deployed to regions and JMT's.

28 Chiefs of Delegation Meeting
SA-2 Missiles at Khe Sanh; Release of Phase II US PW's; Immunities and Privileges; Security and Freedom of Movement.)

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19

Chiefs of Delegation Meeting

(Issues discussed: Agenda of Remaining FPJMC Period; 11 point Draft Minute on Agreement on Security, etc.)

All construction/renovation work for FPJMC facilities completed.

17 October 1972. Kissinger, Sullivan and Aldrich return to Paris, ~~to~~ meet with Xuan Thuy. (Le Duc Tho had left for Hanoi)

20 October 1972. Nixon informs Hanoi agreement acceptable.

19-23 October 1972. Kissinger and Sullivan visit Saigon; 5 meetings held with Thieu.

24 October 1972. Thieu briefs political party and government officials on his hard-line negotiating position;

25 October 1972. Hanoi radio broadcasts details of the draft agreement.

25 October 1972. RVN Senate plenary session rejected a tripartite government of national concord as part of an overall settlement. Similar action taken in the Lower House, 27 October 1972.

26 October 1972. Kissinger declares "peace is at hand", and explains reason for the delay.

27 October 1972. DRV releases further details of the secret negotiations.

~~31 October 1972. "What the problems were at the end of October."~~

7 November 1972. Nixon re-elected.

9-10 November 1972. Gen. Haig visits Saigon.

15 November 1972. Saigon proposes that three negotiations be held to break the deadlock.

20 November 1972. Operation Enhance ~~"virtually"~~ completed.

20-25 November 1972. Kissinger-Tho talks resume.

25 November 1972. Le Duc Tho returns to Hanoi.

29-30 November, 1 December 1972. Nixon meets with President Thieu's personal emissary, Nguyen Phu Duc.

30 November 1972. The JCS approve the terms of the draft agreement.

4-13 December 1972. Kissinger-Tho talks resume; technical talks between experts on the protocols were held on 10 and 12 December.

15 December 1972. Technical talks resume.

15-16 December 1972. Le Duc Tho visits Moscow.

16 December 1972. Kissinger reviews the status of the negotiations: the "agreement is 99% completed".

17-18 December 1972. Le Duc Tho visits Peking.

18-30 December 1972. Linebacker 2.

19-20 December 1972. General Haig visits Indochina and Thailand.

23 December 1972. Technical talks adjourned by DRV representatives in protest.

24 December 1972. Xuan Thuy (on ABC's "Issues and Answers") declares DRV will not resume talks until air strikes north of 20th parallel halted.

27 December 1972. Technical talks scheduled for this date called off by DRV in protest.

30 December 1972. Linebacker-2 ended with announcement that Technical Talks would resume on 2 January 1973 and the Kissinger-Tho talks would resume 8 January 1973.

2-5 January 1972. Technical talks between Sullivan and Thach resumed.

6 January 1973. Le Duc Tho arrives in Paris.

8 January 1973. Laird briefs House Armed Services Committee.

8-10 January 1973. Technical talks resume.

8-13 January 1973. Kissinger---The talks resume (Szulc says they began on 7 January); 11 January session included the technical talks delegation.

13 January 1973. The negotiations are concluded.

15 January 1973. Bombing of North Vietnam halted.

13-20 January 1973. General Haig briefs allies in Indochina and Asia on the agreement.

23 January 1973. Kissinger and Tho initial the agreement.

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Authority NND 963050
By NARA Date 12/4/97

27--The Four Parties completed signature of the agreement ending the war and restoring peace in Vietnam.

28--~~On 28 Jan~~ Letters from President Thieu were sent to President Nixon and to Korean President Park Chung Lee expressing appreciation for US and Korean aid. Letters were also sent to Philippines, Thailand, Australia, and New Zealand heads of Government.

28--~~On 28 Jan~~ President Thieu announced that the cease-fire had gone into effect at 0800 hours (Saigon time) that morning.

29--The first meeting of the Four Party Joint Military Commission was held on 29 Jan 73.

30--Vice President Spiro Agnew held consultations with President Thieu on post-war relations in Saigon.

31--MACV announced the total US troop strength in South Vietnam was 21,821 at the end of Jan 73.